

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the Amendments filed 2 April 2008. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-11, 13-18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 28-31 are amended. Claims 3, 7 and 21 are cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-20 and 22-31 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-19 are allowable over the prior art because the combination of limitations which recite a margin testing system for frequency margin testing an electronic system, the margin testing system comprising: a baseboard management controller; an inter-integrated circuit I/O expander configured to generate bit patterns in response to commands from said baseboard management controller; and a digital frequency synthesizer connected to said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander by an inter-integrated circuit I/O bus and configured to generate one or more test frequencies for application to one or more of a plurality of components of said electronic system in response to bit patterns generated by said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander is not found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record.

Claims 20 and 22-24 are allowable over the prior art because the combination of limitations which recite a computer system, comprising: a baseboard management controller; an inter-integrated circuit I/O expander configured to generate bit patterns in response to commands from said

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baseboard management controller; and a digital frequency synthesizer connected to said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander by an inter-integrated circuit I/O bus and configured to generate one or more test frequencies for application to one or more of a plurality of components of said electronic system in response to bit patterns generated by said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander is not found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record.

Claims 25-31 are allowable over the prior art because the combination of limitations which recite a method for frequency margin testing of one or more components of a computer system, comprising a baseboard management controller, an inter-integrated circuit I/O expander and a digital frequency synthesizer, in communication with said baseboard management controller through an inter-integrated circuit bus and said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander, comprising: transmitting, by said baseband management controller, one or more commands to said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander and said synthesizer for said frequency margin testing; generating, by said inter-integrated circuit I/O expander, but patterns of input signals to said synthesizer from said one or more commands; and generating, by said synthesizer, one or more test frequencies in response to said input signals and for application to said one or more components is not found, taught or suggested in the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARY C. BARAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano can be reached on (571) 272-7925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MARY C BARAN/
4 June 2008

/Eliseo Ramos-Feliciano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2857